Before the Federal Communications Commission Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
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Radio Centre, Inc.)	File Number EB-03-AT-062
Licensee of AM Broadcast Station WAGC)	
Centre, Alabama)	NAL/Acct.No. 200332480021
)	
	j	FRN 0007-3964-19

NOTICE OF APPARENT LIABILITY FOR FORFEITURE

Released: April 15, 2003

By the Enforcement Bureau, Atlanta Office:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture ("NAL"), we find Radio Centre, Inc., licensee of AM radio station WAGC, apparently liable for a forfeiture in the amount of seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) for willful violation of Section 73.49 of the Commission's Rules ("Rules"). Specifically, we find Radio Centre, Inc. apparently liable for failing to enclose the station's antenna tower within an effective locked fence.

II. BACKGROUND

2. On March 4, 2003, an agent from the FCC Enforcement Bureau's Atlanta Office inspected radio station WAGC's antenna tower in Centre, Alabama. The agent was accompanied by the station's manager. The station's antenna tower had radio frequency energy at the base of the tower. The wooden fence around the base of the tower had deteriorated such that some of the fence boards had collapsed to the ground, resulting in gaps that allowed unrestricted access to the tower base. The station manager stated he was aware the fence needed repair and that the fence had been in that condition for some time.

III. DISCUSSION

3. Section 73.49 of the Rules requires antenna towers having radio frequency potential at the base (series fed, folded unipole, and insulated base antennas) to be enclosed within effective locked fences. WAGC's antenna tower has radio frequency potential at its base. On March 4, 2003, severe deterioration of the wooden fence at the base of WAGC's antenna tower resulted in gaps in two of the four sides of the wooden fence where the boards had rotted through and collapsed. The station manager stated that the fence had been in that condition for quite some time.

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¹ 47 C.F.R. § 73.49.

- 4. Based on the evidence before us, we find Radio Centre, Inc., willfully² violated Section 73.49 of the Rules by failing to maintain an effective locked fence enclosing the base of its antenna tower.
- 5. Pursuant to Section 1.80(b)(4) of the Rules,³ the base forfeiture amount for failing to maintain an effective locked AM tower fence is \$7,000. In assessing the monetary forfeiture amount, we must also take into account the statutory factors set forth in Section 503(b)(2)(D) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended ("Act"), which include the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation, and with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and other such matters as justice may require." Considering the entire record and applying the factors listed above, this case warrants a \$7,000 forfeiture.

IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

- 6. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT, pursuant to Section 503(b) of the Act,⁵ and Sections 0.111, 0.311 and 1.80 of the Rules,⁶ Radio Centre, Inc. is hereby NOTIFIED of this APPARENT LIABILITY FOR A FORFEITURE in the amount of seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) for willful violation of Section 73.49 of the Rules by failing to maintain effective AM tower fencing around the base of the antenna tower for WAGC.
- 7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT, pursuant to Section 1.80 of the Rules, within thirty days of the release date of this NAL, Radio Centre, Inc. SHALL PAY the full amount of the proposed forfeiture or SHALL FILE a written statement seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture.
- 8. Payment of the forfeiture may be made by mailing a check or similar instrument, payable to the order of the Federal Communications Commission, to the Forfeiture Collection Section, Finance Branch, Federal Communications Commission, P.O. Box 73482, Chicago, Illinois 60673-7482. The payment should note the NAL/Acct. No. and FRN referenced above. Request for payment of the full amount of NAL under an installment plan should be sent to: Chief, Revenue and Receivable Operations Group, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.⁷
- 9. The response, if any, must be mailed to Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554, Attn: Enforcement Bureau-Technical & Public Safety Division, and MUST INCLUDE THE NAL/Acct. No. referenced above.

² Section 312(f)(1) of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 312(f)(1), which applies to violations for which forfeitures are assessed under Section 503(b) of the Act, provides that "[t]he term 'willful,' when used with reference to the commission or omission of any act, means the conscious and deliberate commission or omission of such act, irrespective of any intent to violate any provision of this Act" *See Southern California Broadcasting Co.*, 6 FCC Rcd 4387 (1991).

³ 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(b)(4).

⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 503 (b)(2)(D).

⁵ 47 U.S.C. § 503(b).

⁶ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.111, 0.311, 1.80.

⁷ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1914.

- 10. The Commission will not consider reducing or canceling a forfeiture in response to a claim of inability to pay unless the petitioner submits: (1) federal tax returns for the most recent three-year period; (2) financial statements prepared according to generally accepted accounting practices ("GAAP"); or (3) some other reliable and objective documentation that accurately reflects the petitioner's current financial status. Any claim of inability to pay must specifically identify the basis for the claim by reference to the financial documentation submitted.
- 11. Under the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Pub L. No. 107-198, 116 Stat. 729 (June 28, 2002), the FCC is engaged in a two-year tracking process regarding the size of entities involved in forfeitures. If you qualify as a small entity and if you wish to be treated as a small entity for tracking purposes, please so certify to us within thirty (30) days of this NAL, either in your response to the NAL or in a separate filing to be sent to the Technical & Public Safety Division. Your certification should indicate whether you, including your parent entity and its subsidiaries, meet one of the definitions set forth in the list provided by the FCC's Office of Communications Business Opportunities (OCBO) set forth in Attachment A of this Notice of Apparent Liability. This information will be used for tracking purposes only. Your response or failure to respond to this question will have no effect on your rights and responsibilities pursuant to Section 503(b) of the Communications Act. If you have questions regarding any of the information contained in Attachment A, please contact OCBO at (202) 418-0990.
- 12. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT a copy of this NAL shall be sent by regular mail and Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested to Radio Centre, Inc.; P.O. Box 602; Centre, Alabama 35960-0602.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Fred L. Broce District Director, Atlanta Office Enforcement Bureau

Attachment A